



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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Commission considers amendments to gift regulations *Some issues are raised by events such as the Rose Bowl and Super Bowl*

Proposed changes to regulations used to determine the value of gifts will be discussed by the Fair Political Practices Commission when it holds its monthly meeting Thursday (Nov. 4) in Sacramento.

The meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

The Political Reform Act limits the ability of public officials to accept gifts in three ways. First, the law prohibits a public official (or candidate) from accepting large gifts (\$340 or more) and restricts any gift to state officials of \$10 or more from lobbyists and lobbying firms. Second, the public official or candidate must disclose his or her receipt of any gift of \$50 or more, so that the public is made aware of such gifts. Third, a public official may not use his or her official position to influence the outcome of a decision involving the donor of a gift valued at \$340 or more.

The Commission will begin consideration of several proposed amendments to regulations determining how gifts are valued. One of the issues was raised as result of requests to the FPPC for advice relating to 2003 Super Bowl activities in San Diego.

One proposed amendment would define "face value," "ticket/pass," and "invitation." Another amendment would provide that a ticket is valued at face value only if purchased at that price or if provided by the host -- otherwise the value would be the cost to the donor. Other proposed amendments involve, among other subjects, invitation-only events, official functions, tickets to 501(c)(3) fundraising events, and the "drop-in" rule for lobbyist employer sponsored events. The gift issues will be considered as agenda **item #12**.

The Commission also will consider a number of other agenda items, including a variety of proposed enforcement actions and information on two recent civil settlements.

The agenda is posted on the FPPC website at: www.fppc.ca.gov. Click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page, and go to "Current Agenda." For more information on a

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particular agenda item, including enforcement stipulations, orders and exhibits and legal memoranda and supporting documents, go to “Agendas” on the web site, then to “Current Agenda,” then click on the links in the agenda items.

Letters responding to items on the agenda after it was posted on the website 10 days prior to the meeting can be found at the top of the agenda on the website.

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